

JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

VOLUME VI, #4

WINTER 1995

Single Copy: \$4.00



1900-S QUARTER
WITH LONG DIE BREAK THROUGH STARS 7 - 13

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JOURNAL OF THE BARBER COIN COLLECTORS SOCIETY

Published quarterly. Dedicated to bringing together people with similar interests in Barber Coinage for the purpose of advancing appreciation of this series.

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For Society issues in general, survey responses, young numismatist award, etc. write Phil Carrigan at: 1105 N. Crescent Court; Round Lake, IL 60073.

ON THE COVER

This 1900-S Quarter has a large die break more typical of an early large cent or Bust half dollar. Very unusual for a coin as recent as a Barber. But . . . see the photos in the Oddities & Varieties section on pages 14 & 15.

We Need Your Articles!!!

The BCCS *Journal* needs your input! If you've got some information to share with the rest of the Society, we'd like to publish it.

Please send submissions (handwritten, typed and/or on-diskette) to:

David Lawrence
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Virginia Beach, VA 23464

Deadline for next issue is March 1st.

With this issue we close the year on a successful note as a Society. Our *Journal*, edited and published by Dave Lawrence and John Feigenbaum, took third place in the *American Numismatic Association* competition. This is a significant accomplishment in the face of long-standing, experienced specialty society publications. Our membership now stands nearly 300 collectors. We are well-recognized among the various specialty collector groups, many of whom have been established long before our founding in 1988. (My thanks to Steve Epstein for his vision in this regard.)

Paul Reuter sent me a nice letter at the end of November with much good news. We stand just a few names short of having three-hundred members. Overall, our record for member retention based on beginning of the year renewals has been good. Paul indicates he is now assigning member numbers in the 880s, an indication we have a reservoir of 500 former members. If you know any of these persons, we want them back! Additionally, the excellent coverage we receive from *Coin World* after each issue of the *Journal* can serve to recruit interested collectors.

In November I purchased a copy of the book "*Shield and Liberty Nickels*" authored by Gloria Peters and Cynthia Mohon, published as one of the series of Complete Guides by DLRC press. I enjoyed paging through this readable reference book. I'm curious about the fraction of our members who collect either of these series. As you likely recognize, the Liberty Nickel could just as properly be referred to as the Barber Nickel, I'll leave it to others to explain why this nomenclature didn't become fact. Providing there is interest, we can encourage our membership to pursue research and writing on this series just the same as the classic Barber series. Think about this possibility: authoring the first article on Liberty Nickels in the BCCS *Journal*.

Allow me to relate an experience which has important value to our Society. I returned a phone call from a BCCS member couple who had examined some auction lots. The coins were from the RARCOA segment of *Numisma '95*, a sale held in New York at the end of November. They looked over all the Barber dimes in a denomination set which ran from 1792 to 1945. All coins were raw and thus described by the cataloger. These members examined each Barber lot for consistency with described catalog grade and for variety, either obvious and well-known or obscure (none were noted in the sale). Hopefully, we may see a short note from them detailing their findings. Nevertheless, I think they have initiated something of value to our members. If you notice something in a forthcoming auction drop Dave or I a note: we would like to hear what you find and pass this on. If a local coin shop or Sunday coin show has an interesting variety call one of us and then consider writing a brief note for the *Journal*. Either the verbal or written approach (or both) makes use of the BCCS in the role of clearinghouse. Neat!

Please enjoy the Holiday Season. If you plan to be at FUN in January, look for other BCCS members; I'm told there may be another impromptu Society meeting held during the show.

Numismatically yours,
Phil Carrigan

FROM THE EDITOR

With this issue we end our 7th year! And we have come a long way. Barbers have greatly increased in popularity in that time and we are now in the "age of discovery." I get a new variety or oddity pointed out to me every few weeks and these get published in our journal every issue. No doubt there are many more to be discovered for this series was long ignored. Keep up the good work!

In this issue we have a fine article from David Lange. Dave is the Director of Research at NGC and has authored some important books in numismatics. Phil, Paul, Jack and Russell have also contributed. They are our "regulars." Fine as our journal is, it will be better still if more of you will contribute articles. Please try to send something in.

VERY IMPORTANT - PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP THIS MONTH. As of last count we had something like 293 members. Our society is healthy and we want to keep it that way. It exists only for you. So please drop a check to "BCCS" in the envelope with Paul's address on it and send it in. Thanks. And we all wish you a very happy holiday season.

WHERE ARE WE FROM?

Our membership count is just a few less than 300. You may wonder how we are distributed around the country and this should give you an idea. We have members in 45 of the 50 states, with only the lightly North Central states being without members. The states with the most members are California — 30, Illinois — 24, Texas — 17, Pennsylvania — 16, New York — 15, Ohio — 15. Several states have but a single member but we do have two members from Alaska and one from Hawaii.

Paul Reuter

TREASURY REPORT

NINE MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1995

Opening Balance	Jan. 1, 1995		\$ 3,891.69
Receipts	Dues	\$ 2,010.00	
	Back-issue Sales	236.00	
	Advertising	1,460.00	
	Donation	13.50	
	Misc.	24.00	
	Total		3,743.50
Funds Available			\$ 7,635.19
Expenditures	Journal Production	\$4,060.50	
	Postage	137.42	
	ANA Dues	33.00	
	Bank Charges	6.13	
	Total		\$4,237.10
Closing Balance	September 30, 1995		\$ 3,398.09

Signed: Paul Reuter, Secretary/Treasurer

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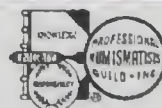
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BARBER COINS: A PERSONAL JOURNEY

by David W. Lange

I've never completed a set of Barber coins, although I've attempted to a number of times. In each instance I started out with tremendous enthusiasm, since I've always liked these coins and the era they recall. For whatever reason, some other area of collecting distracts me, and I end up selling off my partial sets to finance this new venture. I've learned a lot along the way, however, and I've always profited from the knowledge gained. My most recent sell-off followed the run-up in prices experienced by Barber coins during the late 1980s, and I actually managed to profit financially as well.

In all, I've started six sets of half dollars (my favorite) and four sets each of dimes and quarters. Barber coins were not among the coins I could find in circulation during the 1960s, although fellow collectors at my grade school did turn up a few common dates. My early knowledge of Barbers came from lusting over the display of coins for sale at the F. W. Woolworth stores. (Yes, in those days coin collecting was popular enough that major stores always had a coin department.) My favorite journey was to the Woolworth store in downtown San Francisco, although I usually had to settle for the suburban store in Daly City, which was closer to home and offered free parking. (Mom was only good for the local stores; it took Dad and a Saturday morning to make it all the way downtown.)

The coins for sale were mounted in cardboard 2x2 holders and arranged within hinged, steel and glass panels of the sort still used by libraries and museums to present displays. It seemed to me as I craned my neck to see the wonderful array that every coin ever made must be within those frames. The prices were beyond my childhood budget, as the only money I ever had then came from Christmas and birthday gifts and from the 50 cents that my paternal grandparents gave me each time they visited (this money wasn't always spendable, however, as they knew of my coin collecting and tried to save Walking Liberty halves for me — those were keepers). With my meager funds, the marked prices of 75 cents for worn and common Seated Liberty dimes and 50 cents for Barber dimes was simply too great a sacrifice. Completely beyond my comprehension were the equivalent quarters and halves, priced at \$1.25 and \$1.75, respectively. (Bear in mind that coins were then competing with monster models and Matchbox cars for possession of my soul.) Still, I yearned for these coins, and in my naivete I wondered how the store was so lucky to find these coins in circulation when I couldn't. Lacking a mentor in the hobby, I didn't even know how their values were determined, since I then had a library consisting of but a single book, R. S. Yeoman's *A Hand Book of United States Coins*. I didn't understand the difference between wholesale and retail values, but it did seem to me that the prices marked on the coin holders were quite a bit higher than the ones found in my book. (I should add also that my parents were at first very reluctant to let me buy old coins, since they didn't understand the hobby themselves and were certain I'd be taken advantage of. Looking back at the prices seen in the Woolworth coin racks, they were correct to some extent, although the damage done would have been slight.)

In time, I discovered first coin shops (as opposed to coin departments) and then coin magazines (with strangers offering a wide variety of old coins from addresses all over the country). This coincided with a growth in my financial status via lawn mowing, bottle recycling, etc. Thus better armed, I made my first purchases of the coins missing from my Whitman folders. At first, these consisted of those Buffalo nickels and Mercury dimes needed to finish off sets begun from circulation, but my purchases gradually advanced to

include coins I'd never owned before. Barber dimes and quarters were acquired in quantity, without regard to condition. Only a few Barber half dollars were added to my collection, as their value still proved somewhat daunting. As a result of this imprudent buying, I soon owned all of the common dates in Fair to AG condition, and I became quite practiced at identifying coins considered dateless by more sensible collectors.

As I entered junior high school, however, I developed a yearning for something more appropriate to my advancing station in life. Already hooked on Barbers, I decided that the half dollars offered the best opportunity. There were no dates unattainable in circulated condition, and these coins seem to provide a lot of metal relative to their cost. My enthusiasm was aided by the ready availability of coin albums for this series. My favorites were Whitman's Bookshelf line, and they remain my album of choice even today, though not produced since the 1970s. By this time, my first generation of coin collecting friends had largely moved on to other adolescent activities such as sports and vandalism, but I made one friend during the 7th grade who shared my keen interest in the hobby and whose parents were unusually indulgent in supplying transportation for coin raids. His name was Ron, and we soon became both comrades and competitors in the pursuit of Barber halves.

I was at something of a disadvantage from the start, since Ron always seemed to have more money and a variety of schemes for getting more still. At times, I was let in on these ventures, and they often proved quite lucrative. Undoubtedly, a number of child labor laws were violated, but no harm was ever suffered by either of us, although I certainly would never work that hard again for any amount of money. Ron always seemed to know where a better coin shop could be found than the one we'd been patronizing (try to find even one in your neighborhood today!), and this quest eventually led us to Jack Beymer's shop in Santa Rosa, about 1-1/2 hours drive northward from our homes here truly was coin heaven. Our fathers alternated the driving responsibility, allowing us to visit Jack's shop about once every couple of months. The time in between visits was spent begging, borrowing, and . . . well, never mind. Since my maternal grandfather lived in nearby Boyes Hot Springs (this once placid, rural area has long since been overwhelmed by suburbia), I was treated to occasional bonus trips. My mother and brother would be dropped off at Grandpa's house, and Dad and I would continue on to Santa Rosa, before rejoining them in the afternoon.

Jack's shop is where I got my first serious taste of coin collecting. This was in the early 1970's, and I remember Jack and Sondra's son Freeman as a toddler, and I recall the birth of daughter Laurel. Anyway, Ron and I started out collecting Barber halves by date and mint in Good condition — only full-rim coins would suffice. As our competitive spirits began to override the importance of simply finishing our sets, the ante was upped to Fine, then F-VF, and so on. Each upgrade required that existing coins be exchanged for better grade pieces, and Jack was always willing to let us turn in our previous purchases for credit toward new purchases. This competitive collecting went on for a couple of years, by which time we were seeking only VF and EF coins. It may have gone on for several more years if not interrupted by high school and a major shift in interest with respect to our social lives.

I nearly lost touch with Ron during high school, as we pursued our respective activities and soon fell into different social groups. Within a couple of weeks of graduation, however, I received a call from Ron, and we were off to do the rounds of coin shops once again. This time, however, we had our own wheels, and the search for coins took us all over the San Francisco Bay Area. There were still quite a number of coin shops in the late

1970s, though down from the previous decade. It wasn't until after the big bullion run-up of 1979-80 that coin shops seemed to vanish overnight. New to our adventures were coin shows, which seemed to have escaped our notice in earlier years.

For whatever reason, I declined to pursue Barber coins by date and mint, and my half dollar collection was sold to finance other collecting specialties. I still remember some of the original, problem-free, VF-EF coins that I surrendered, and for certain issues I've never seen their like since. One in particular that sticks in my memory was my 1903-S half dollar; it was simply perfect.

Not until the mid 1980's did I return to collecting Barber coins. This was after I'd put together a set of Seated Liberty halves in similar grades and had built up a fairly good type set. By this time I had a new roster of coin buddies acquired from the local clubs. Ron having given up the hobby in favor of other pursuits. I resumed my Barber hunt where I left off, assembling a set of halves in grades ranging from VF-EF. After putting together about a third of the set in original, problem-free condition, I made the mistake of upgrading the coin in my type set to choice AU-58. After that, I was hooked. I sold all of my nice circulated coins and began buying only "sliders", coins that looked mint state but could be bought for a fraction of the cost. I'd done fairly well financially in selling off the other pieces, since the BCCS had just been formed, and there was growing interest in Barber coins.

Due in part to Dave Lawrence's books and the BCCS, my interest soon spread to quarters and then dimes. All of my purchases were of choice coins grading AU-55 or AU-58. After awhile, in pursuing these grades for three series at once, I found that I was simply spending too much money on coins. Rather than just concentrating on a single series and doing it justice, I became somewhat exhausted with the whole concept and sold off my partial collections. Before the last of these were gone, however, I was back at it again. I got hooked on collecting the same three series, but I decided that VF-EF coins were the way to go. Quality pieces were already becoming much harder to find by then (1991-92), as the gospel of the BCCS spread and grew in popularity. Even so, I made fairly good progress with my sets, spending less money on them but still having a good time. Circulated coins have the added advantage that they can be placed in albums (still my favorite way to collect) yet are not threatened by the materials (unlike high grade coins).

In the course of collecting Barbers, I've had a number of opportunities to contribute to the literature of these series in my own small way. Perhaps my greatest thrill came in 1980 when I discovered the new reverse hub introduced for the Barber quarter series in 1900. This came about when an article by John McCloskey about similar changes in the dime series was published in *Coin World*, and it prompted me look at my coins more closely. I couldn't believe that no one had ever noticed such an obvious change in the length of the eagle's wingtips after some 80 years. (Remember, this was before the BCCS and before Walter Breen's *Encyclopedia*; the best reference then available was Don Taxay's *Catalogue and Encyclopedia*, a landmark work which has been all but forgotten during the past decade.) Not finding anything in the published literature, I hesitantly wrote up my findings for "Collector's Clearinghouse," and to my delight *Coin World* published it and included photos they'd taken of my coins. This was my first published article, and I've never looked back. But, like the person who wins the lottery with his first ticket, I've never again discovered anything quite so significant.

When the BCCS was formed, Founding Editor Steve Epstein asked to reprint a more extensive study of this and other hub changes I'd written for Bowers & Merena Galleries' *Rare Coin Review*. He also asked that I become a consulting editor. I agreed to

this title for the sake of getting the Journal off the ground, although to my regret I was never able to really fulfill my role. At the time, I held offices in several clubs and was writing two columns; it just wasn't meant to be. Still, I'm proud to hold membership number four, and I hope to be contributing more often in the future.

Despite the satisfaction that I found in collecting Barber coins by date and mint, I recently sold off my growing collections once again. This time I wasn't able to recover my cost, yet there was no shortage of eager buyers for the scarce dates. I'm not sure what stalled my progress in this most recent round of collecting Barbers. It may have been caused, at least in part, by the growing difficulty of finding nice, problem-free coins of any series. Other writers in this journal have commented on the same topic, and it has never been more true in my 20+ years of serious collecting than it is right now. Quality coins of all but the most common dates are virtually impossible to find at shows. I've found this to be true not only of Barber coins but of the other series I've upgraded in recent years such as Mercury dimes and Walking Liberty halves. I noticed it happening years earlier for large cents, as well as Bust and Seated Liberty coins.

Like the other specialty clubs, we may have become victims of our own success. When Early American Coppers was founded in 1967, it took only a few years for all the nice half cents and large cents to gravitate toward its member collectors and dealers. Non-specialist dealers were eventually denuded of their better pieces, and these rarely returned to the marketplace at large. Instead, they continued to trade hands between collectors and dealers within the EAC. One had to be "in the loop" to know when these coins became available for sale. While the nice coins still exist, they are less often traded, and they command premium prices when a sale is made between knowledgeable buyers and sellers. This can be seen as both an asset and a liability, but it does make for somewhat less rewarding coin show experiences. To a lesser extent, this same phenomenon has taken hold of Barber coins, as well. Only when old-time collections return to the market is there a good selection of Barber coins in the hands of non-specialists.

Though I'm not presently collecting Barbers, I still appreciate these coins for their beauty and their place in history. It's just a matter of time before I get hooked once again and renew my partial collections. With a bit of luck and perseverance, I might even finish one of them!

In the meantime, however, I'm having fun studying Barber coins which come into NGC for Photo Proof treatment. We don't get a lot of Barbers, and the ones I see are usually common-date type coins in fabulous grades, yet there are still a few surprises. I can always tell when the coins submitted belong to a Barber enthusiast. A long run of scarce and rare dates in high grades is too much of a coincidence to be just some dealer's stock. In addition, I know that I'm writing up someone's pride and joy. In that sense, I'm, still collecting Barbers.

Just a few weeks before receiving the Fall issue of our journal, I was looking through the price list of a dealer who's a club member. In it I saw two coins that I needed for my choice AU set of Standing Liberty quarters. These were sent out to me on approval and arrived within a few days. Being very fussy when it comes to coins, I opted to return one of the pieces while keeping the other, although both were attractive. A third coin was included in this shipment, one which I had ordered on impulse without a clue as to what I'd do with it. You guessed right — it was a Barber coin. Specifically, it was a Barber half dollar dated 1898-O in choice, original VF-EF condition. Why did I want this coin when I'm not collecting the series? Because every time I did collect Barber halves I could never find one in nice condition. The next time that the Barber bug bites, I'll be ready!



"COUNTERFEIT, MULE 1901-S DIME"

by Russell Easterbrooks

Over the years small coin shows have proven to be outstanding hunting grounds for interesting Barber coins. The Barre, Vermont Fall Coin Show was the site of my latest find.

The coin that caught my eye, carried the description, "Counterfeit Mule. 1901-S dime". This description sounded odd to me so I asked to examine the coin. The dealer explained that the coin was a counterfeit, made from two coins each sliced in half. The obverse of one and the reverse of the other were then glued together to make this better date coin. He removed the coin from the holder and showed me the split on the edge of the coin where the glue had come loose.

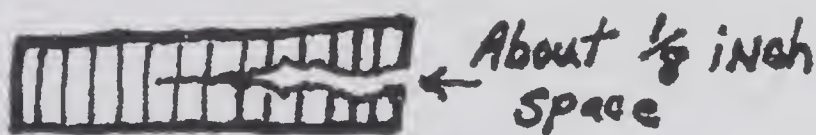
I examined the coin's edges with my small pocket glass, but was unable to be certain of anything. The two halves visible at the split did however, appear rougher than I would have expected. I continued to examine the coin for maybe ten minutes, when the dealer asked if I cared to make him an offer on the coin. I offered him \$5 dollars and he happily excepted. I think he was glad to move me along, so other collectors could view his stock.

When I returned home, I set up my 30X microscope and examined the coin's edge. Looking between the split into the center of the coin, the surfaces were indeed rough with a large "crater" near the edge. An inspection of the reeding and the opposite edge of the coin showed no sign of a crack where the two halves would have been glued together.

I now believe this to be a genuine coin with a planchet defect. This defect may have been cased by air bubbles trapped in the medal when the planchet was made. When the planchet was struck, the pressure squeezed the air out causing the coin's edge to split.

My next move was to package the coin, and send it to the ANA to be authenticated and graded. A few days later I received my coin back, authenticated as a 1901-S dime with a planchet split, graded XF-40. Needless to say my initial investment, plus postage and ANA costs was a fraction of this coin's true value.

This was clearly a case of a coin being passed off as a counterfeit simply because it looked suspect. You never know what's waiting to be discovered, so keep looking!



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

This issue of the *Journal* is the final one for the 1995 membership year. If a renewal flyer is included with your copy of the *Journal*, your 1996 dues of \$15.00 should be sent to me (no change from last year).

Quite a few members have already been credited with payment for 1996. If you are one of them, no renewal flyer accompanied your copy of the *Journal* and your dues for 1996 are paid.

Paul Reuter



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Every time I see the CDN monthly price of the 1911-S quarter I have to smile and scream at the same time. The bid price of \$13 (last time I checked) in Fine is ridiculous, as I'm sure anyone who has tried to purchase one would agree. I have seen two coins in the past three years in this grade that were problem free. These coins don't seem to exist — at any price. I would venture to guess that if a large dealer of Barbers (Dave Lawrence, Jack Beymer, etc.) were offering \$4000 per roll of 40 coins (strict problem free Fine) that no one person could accumulate a roll in a year!! Yes — even at \$100 per coin! The 1907-S and 1912-S in similar problem-free Fine would not be far behind.

Jack White



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THE 1901-O "O" OVER HORIZONTAL "O" DIME

by Jack White

Having been lucky enough to have purchased five 1901-O "O" over horizontal "O" dimes in the past few years, and as my top choice for the *Red Book*, I decided to put my sixteen power loupe to the coins to look for any interesting die characteristics. The "seek and ye shall find" attitude again produces results!

First of all, the five coins are all of the Type I Reverse Hub, those having a thin right ribbon without the extra fold on the underside. This hubbing is illustrated in "*The Complete Guide to Barber Dimes*." Of the eleven 1901-O dimes I own, nine are of the old hub.

The highest grade coin I own of this variety is an XF-45. There is a fine die crack which starts at eight o'clock on the reverse between denticles. It then crosses two big leaves over the stem, continues through a slight field area between stem and left ribbon and through the ribbon across another field area where it joins the mint mark at nine o'clock. It re-emerges at three o'clock and connects to the right ribbon. One of my coins is a Good-6 specimen and this crack can be seen where it originates and where it connects the left ribbon to the mint mark.

As interesting as this crack is, it takes a back seat to the dramatic clashing found in the center of the reverse, especially above and to the right of the denomination. Rotating the coin 180° (upside down) Miss Liberty's profile from her nose to her chin are distinctly apparent on the left side (next to the E's) from the rotated position. Both sides of her neck and the truncation of the neck are also readily visible. The ribbon can be seen clashed above the O of ONE above the shaft. Other minor cracks are also visible at the top of the reverse.

A small area of clashing can be seen on the obverse. Between the knot in Miss Liberty's hair ribbon and the top of her neck, a portion of the reverse vegetation can be seen. Incidentally, both digits "1" in the date are centered between denticles.

While discussing the 1901-O dime, I own a couple of interesting minor varieties. One coin, grading VG, has the mint mark tilted to the right. A Fine grade coin has a rotated reverse of approximately 15°. The letters "AMERI" are very weakly struck. The reverse is also weak in certain areas. The bottom half of the "E" in one is weak and incomplete. The right ribbon bow is also very weak and also incomplete. The bow knot, as well, is not fully struck, being very weak on the right side.



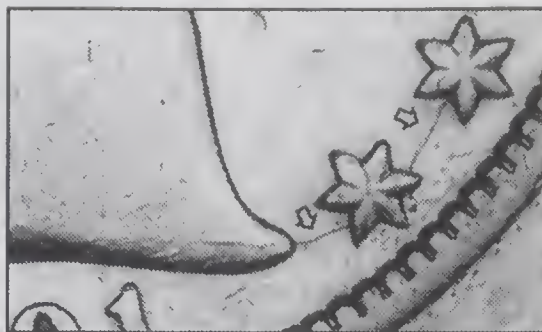
ODDITIES & VARIETIES

from the Editor
(all photos by Tom Mulvaney)

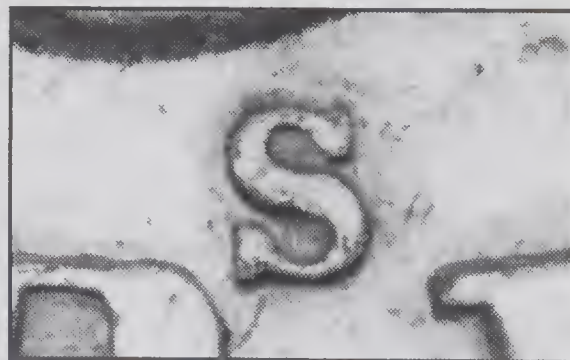
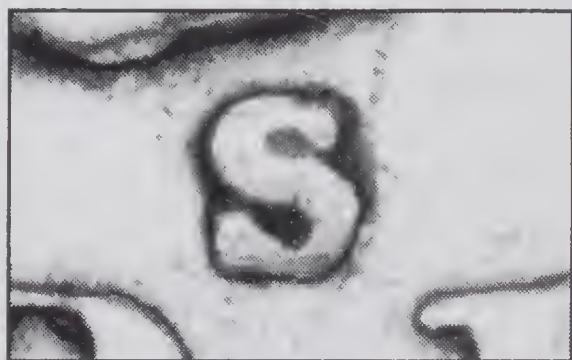
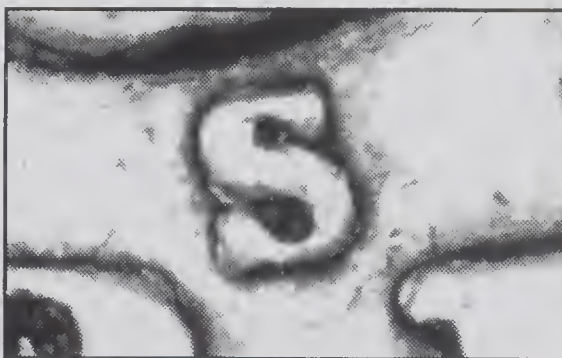


1892-P 10¢ with UNUSUAL OBTVERSE die CRACKS & chips. (NOTE ARROWS)

MORE ODDITIES & VARIETIES



1901-S 50¢ Die cracks (above two pictures). Very dramatic for a Barber half. One of the largest die cracks we have seen in this series.



3 Different mint marks of 1899-S quarters. Note the "clear thin S" that Walter Breen was referring to. Probably not nearly as scarce as he thought.

AN AUCTION HISTORY OF BARBER COINS

B. MAX MEHL, SALE 114

by Phil Carrigan

Editor's Note: Phil Carrigan, BCCS President, has a large collection of early auction catalogs from many dealers. I suggested to Phil he present our members with accounts of interesting and classic auctions from the past. The following article is his first effort, please let us know if these accounts are useful.

Historical, B. Max Mehl may be one of the best known individuals who engaged in auction sales. Mehl was located in Fort Worth, Texas and conducted 120 sales over the years 1903 to 1955. He is seen today as having been a promoter of numismatics by way of advertising in everyday publications and offering his Star Rare Coin Encyclopedia to those looking for valuable coins in pocket change or elsewhere. His auction sales were often mail bid sales as opposed to public sales held in conjunction with a show or convention. In contrast to his style, contemporary auction catalogers of the day used terse descriptions of lots (i.e., type/date/grade, type date/grade, etc.). Mehl could devote an entire page to a detailed and possibly hyped description of the material being offered.

It seems useful to turn back time and review a Mehl Sale. Sale 114, held June 12th, 1951, immediately has appeal based on the consignment from *His Majesty, Farouk I, King of Egypt*. In 1954 Sotheby sold the coins belonging to Farouk by order of the Egyptian Government, Farouk having abdicated the throne and fled his country. Whether there was an actual consignment here, is debatable.

Mehl employed a style followed by other cataloguers: he grouped dates of a specific denomination by the mint where they were produced. Thus, we see a long run of San Francisco coins extending from Seated Liberty type, on to Barbers and into Standing Liberty type. Notice the glowing descriptions for each coin. The 1896-S sold for \$162.50.

The Barber dime series starting with New Orleans mint specimens. Notice the reference to proof and semi-proof. We have no reason to question Mehl's integrity or grading relative to his contemporaries; what does distinguish him from the crowd is hype. Notice for the uncirculated specimens the prime concerns are rarity and luster; absent are references to quality of strike and surface marks. The 1909-O dime is qualified as having "slight cabinet friction." In the 1970s this became known as "slight rub." Today, these coins are likely AU though not necessarily AU-58.

This sale may be judged as standard fare for B. Max Mehl, other sales he conducted bring more promotion and praises to the material. If you enjoyed this note, please let me know. I would be pleased to present other Mehl sales and those of additional cataloguers.

MEHL QUALITY SALE 114

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AUCTION

TUESDAY, JUNE 12th, 1951

ALL BIDS BY MAIL

Catalogued and To Be Sold by

R. MAX MEHL
NUMISMATIST

MEHL BUILDING

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

UNITED STATES QUARTERS; S MINT

Lot No.

- 1126 1892 S. Uncirculated; the obverse shows slight cabinet friction while the reverse is just about equal to a brilliant proof. Catalogs \$25.00.
- 1127 1893 S. Uncirculated, frosty mint surface. Scarce, especially so choice. Catalogs \$10.00. Has higher record.
- 1128 1894 S. Just about equal to a brilliant proof. Beautiful gem and, as such, I consider it quite rare and valuable. Catalogs, \$9.00 in uncirculated. This one is certainly worth much more.
- 1129 1895 S. Uncirculated, frosty mint surface. Has auction record, up to \$15.00. Catalogs \$12.50.
- 1130 1896 S. Brilliant uncirculated with full mint luster. One of the rarest Quarter-Dollars, especially in this beautiful condition. Catalogs \$125.00 and certainly worth it.
- 1131 1897 S. Uncirculated with brilliant mint luster. Another rarity. Catalogs \$35.00, but a specimen in my last Sale brought \$32.50 when it cataloged

- only \$30.00, and I had more than a dozen bids for it at about that amount.
- 1132 1898 S. Uncirculated, frosty mint surface. Catalogs \$20.00, but a specimen in my last Sale brought \$23.00. These branch mint Quarter-Dollars in uncirculated condition. are far more rare than their catalog listing signifies.
- 1133 1899 S. Very good. Catalogs \$5.00 in fine.
- 1134 1900 S. Uncirculated, full mint luster. Very scarce. Catalogs \$15.00. Last record, \$16.00.
- 1135 1902 S. (The 1901 S is the rarest. It was in his collection but was sold privately at \$400.00) Very good- nearly fine. (\$3.00)
- 1136 1903 S. Just about fine. (\$2.50)
- 1137 1905 S. (None minted in 1904). Brilliant uncirculated. Last record, \$14.25.
- 1138 1907 S. (None minted in 1906). Brilliant uncirculated, semi-proof surface. Catalogs \$15.00 but has an auction record of \$16.00. Last specimen offered at auction brought \$12.75
- 1139 1909 S. Uncirculated, full mint luster. Scarce. (\$12.50) 1
- 1140 1911 S. Strictly very good, nearly fine. (\$2.50) 1
- 1141 1912 S. Brilliant uncirculated. Rare so choice. In much demand. A similar specimen in my Sale of the Kern Collection brought \$67.50 on a bid of \$71.00.
- 1142 1913 S. Just good, but quite rare. An uncirculated specimen in my last Sale brought \$125.00. Of course, this coin is not worth anywhere near that amount.
- 1143 1915 S. Uncirculated. Scarce so choice. (\$9.00)

UNITED STATES DIMES; O MINT

- 1339 1892 O. First year of the Barber type. Uncirculated, full frosty mint surface. Very scarce. Catalogs \$9.00. Last record, \$10.50.
- 1340 1893 O. No proofs were supposed to have been struck at any of the branch mints, but there isn't anything else I can call this coin but a brilliant proof. Apparently an early striking of the die. A similar specimen in my last Sale brought \$12.25.
- 1341 1894 O. Brilliant uncirculated. A gem coin with semi-proof surface, and it is quite a rarity; far more so than its catalog & listing would signify. A similar specimen, but not quite as X choice as this one, in my Sale, brought \$34.00 on a \$40.00 bid.
- 1342 1895 O. Uncirculated, full mint luster. A real rarity. This coin has always brought more than its catalog listing. A similar specimen in my last Sale brought \$115.00 when it cataloged for only \$65.00. There were seven bidders who were willing to pay \$100.00 and more for it, and even more were willing to pay its catalog listing of \$65.00. It now catalogs \$125.00 and certainly worth it.
- 1343 1896 O. Uncirculated with frosty mint surface. Another rarity with a bright future. Last record, \$52.50.
- 1344 1897 O. Uncirculated, frosty mint surface. Another rarity. Last record, \$42.00 on a \$50.00 bid. There was another bid at \$40.00 and several bids very close to it.

- 1345 1898 O. Uncirculated with full mint luster. While this coin catalogs for only \$17.50, it is far under-rated. In my last Sale it brought \$36.50. There were several bidders who were willing to pay more than \$30.00 for it.
- 1346 1899 O. Uncirculated, frosty mint surface. Another rarity, constantly advancing in value. Last record, \$20.50, and certainly worth it.
- 1347 1900 O. Uncirculated, mint luster. Rare, especially so choice. In much demand. A specimen in my last Sale brought \$31.50.
- 1348 1901 O. Uncirculated, frosty mint surface. Quite rare. In my last Sale I stated that while the coin cataloged for \$12.50, it was in my opinion worth at least double. It sold for \$31.50.
- 1349 1902 O. Brilliant uncirculated. Rare and valuable and in great demand. Far under-rated as to its rarity and value. In very few collections. Such collections as "The World's Greatest", the Atwater, and Neil did not have a specimen any where near as choice. A similar specimen in my last Sale brought \$42.00.
- 1350 1903 O. Uncirculated, full mint luster. Catalogs \$7.50 and worth more.
- 1351 1905 O. (No Dimes minted at the New Orleans Mint in 1904.) Uncirculated, mint luster. Scarce. (\$6.00)
- 1352 1906 O. Brilliant uncirculated. Record, \$3.00.
- 1353 1907 O. Uncirculated. (\$3.00) Very scarce.
- 1354 1908 O. Uncirculated. (\$4.50)
- 1355 1909 O. Last year of issue. Uncirculated; slight cabinet friction. (\$4.00)

U. S. DIMES of the SAN FRANCISCO MINT

- 1379 1893 S. Uncirculated, frosty mint surface. Catalogs \$10.00. A specimen not quite as choice brought \$9.00 in my last Sale when it cataloged \$8.50.
- 1380 1895 S. Uncirculated, frosty mint surface. Catalogs \$25.00 0 and worth it.
- 1381 1896 S. Brilliant proof. The obverse is absolutely brilliant the reverse is a semi-proof. Catalogs \$40.00, but a specimen in my last Sale brought \$37.50 on a \$40.00 bid when it cataloged \$30.00. This coin cost \$50.00.
- 1382 1897 S. Uncirculated with full mint luster. Catalogs \$15.00, but last record \$14.50. Collectors who are contemplating completing their collection with uncirculated specimens of these rare Dimes would do well to do so as soon as they can. In my opinion all of these coins in choice condition are far a more rare and valuable than their catalog listing would signify.
- 1383 1898 S. Very fine. Catalogs \$3.50 in fine.
- 1384 1899 S. Uncirculated, frosty mint surface. Very scarce so choice. Catalogs \$15.00 but has higher record.
- 1385 1900 S. Uncirculated. Very scarce. Catalogs \$12.50.
- 1386 1901 S. Uncirculated, strictly so, with full frosty mint surface. Regardless of its catalog listing of only \$50.00, it is, in my opinion, one of the rarest Dimes of the San Francisco Mint. In fact this coin brought more than double its catalog price in the past ten years or more. A specimen in my last Sale brought \$87.50. And there were more bids for this Dime than for any other Dime of this mint. There were nearly a dozen bidders who were willing to pay more than \$50.00 for it, and several above \$75.00. If I had this coin in stock would

- not hesitate to ask, (and I am sure I would get) not less than \$100.00.
- 1387 1902 S. Uncirculated, frosty mint surface. Another under priced coin. Catalogs \$25.00. Last record, \$21.00, when it cataloged only \$15.00.
- 1388 1903 S. Brilliant semi-proof, nearly equal to a proof. Now catalogs \$20.00. Last record, \$23.50 when it cataloged \$12.50. In fact, this is the Jerome Kern specimen purchased by Mr. Rapport.
- 1389 1904 S. Uncirculated, frosty mint surface. Very scarce so choice. Last record slightly above catalog.
- 1390 1905 S. Uncirculated, mint luster. (\$5.00)
- 1391 1906 S. Uncirculated, frosty mint surface. Shows slight cabinet friction. (\$5.00)
- 1392 1907 S. Uncirculated, mint luster. (\$5.00)
- 1393 1908 S. Uncirculated. Catalogs \$5.00.
- 1394 1909 S. Uncirculated with full mint luster. Last record over \$5.00.
- 1395 1910 S. Uncirculated frosty mint surface. Catalogs \$5.00.
- 1396 1911 S. Bright uncirculated. Catalogs \$5.00.
- 1397 1912 S. Brilliant uncirculated; a semi-proof. A similar specimen in my Neil Sale brought \$16.25.
- 1398 1913 S. Just about uncirculated; in fact I doubt if this coin was ever in circulation, as it has most of its original mint luster. Originally purchased as uncirculated. As stated in my previous catalog, I consider this coin a "sleeper", as is evidenced by the fact that a similar coin in my last Sale brought \$62.50. Very rare and valuable.
- 1399 1914 S. Uncirculated with full brilliant mint luster. (\$10.00)
- 1400 1915 S. Uncirculated with full mint luster. Very scarce. Has record exceeding its catalog listing of \$7.50.
- 1401 1916 S. Uncirculated with slight cabinet friction. Last year of the Barber type Dime. (\$2.50)

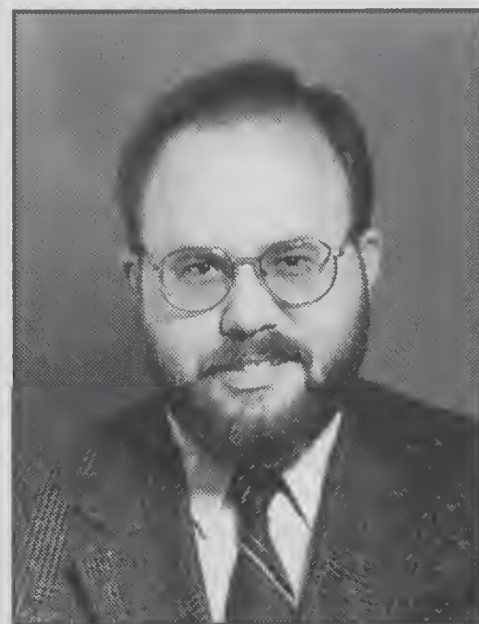
U. S. DIMES MINTED at the DENVER MINT

- 1417 1906 D. First year of Dimes minted at this branch mint. Uncirculated. (\$3.00)
- 1418 1907 D. Just extremely fine, but rather scarce.
- 1419 1908 D. Uncirculated, frosty mint surface. Last record, \$3.15.
- 1420 1909 D. Uncirculated, frosty mint surface. Catalogs \$4.50.
- 1421 1910 D. Uncirculated with mint luster. v\$2.50)
- 1422 1911 D. Uncirculated, full mint luster. (\$3.00)
- 1423 1912 D. Uncirculated, frosty mint surface. (\$2.50)
- 1424 1914 D. (None minted in 1913.) Uncirculated. Catalogs \$2.50.



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1912	VF20	Nice original grey	\$30.
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1893-S	G6	Part of L & T show, original grey	\$55.
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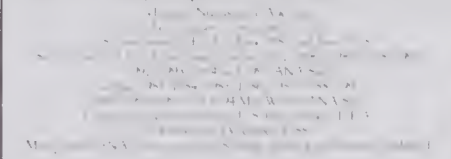
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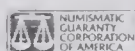
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BARBERS 1950-1996

By Paul Reuter

Recently I discovered an old book hidden away on one of my bookshelves. I had forgotten that I had it. Entitled "*Handbook of United States Coins With Premium List*". By Yeoman Hewitt and Green, this book was the 1950 edition of the "Blue Book".

At the front of the book the authors state that it is not a price list but rather a guide as to what average prices dealers will pay for coins required for their stock. Several pages are devoted to the history of collecting and there is also a short section on grading. The grading descriptions are for coins in general rather than by specific series. Interestingly, no mention is made of AU as the descriptions jump from Extra Fine directly to uncirculated.

For Barber halves, prices are listed only for Very Good and Very Fine coins. In Very Good, virtually all dates would bring face value or perhaps a nickel extra. Among the few exceptions were the 93-S, 01-S, 13-P, 14-S and 15-P, all being worth \$1.00 in Very Good and \$1.50 in Very Fine. A notable exception was the 92-O with a microscopic O, it bringing \$1.50 in Very Good and \$4.00 in Very Fine.

For Barber quarters., the list gives prices for Good and Fine only. Of the whole series, only fifteen would bring more than face value in Good. The big exceptions for quarters were 1896-S at \$1.50 for Good and \$4.00 for Fine, the 1901-S at \$8.00 for Good and \$25.00 for Fine and the 1913-S at \$1.50 for Good and \$4.00 for Fine. Many of the common dates were shown at being worth just face value even in Fine!

Barber dimes show up with pricing for Good and Fine only, just like the quarters. In Good, only a handful would bring more than face value, some actually listed at a buying price of 12 cents, a 2 cent premium. As can be expected by now, the prices for Fines were also very low. Exceptions are the 92-S bringing \$.60 in Good and \$1.25 in Fine, 95-O at \$3.00 in Good and \$6.00 in Fine, plus a few more with similar pricing. I didn't forget the 1894-S. It is shown with a mintage of 24 coins and an average dealer buying price of \$100.00 in Good and \$250.00 in Fine.

It's hard to rationalize these 1950 Barber prices and I'll make no effort to do so. Maybe a comparison with 1995 "Grey Sheet" prices isn't totally correct, but it does provide an interesting case. Prices for common Barbers graded Good are about 10 times higher than they were 45 years ago. Corrected for inflation, they have risen very little. Yet in higher grades, common dates as well as key dates have risen 100 times or more in many cases. What will the next 45 years do to pricing?

Evidently there will always be enough common dates in low grades to supply the demand. To achieve any reasonable price appreciation, collectors should lean towards Barbers in grades Very Fine or better, at least in the more common dates. For keys, do the best you can. If history repeats, it will be hard to lose value and more than likely value will be gained by collecting and holding better Barbers.



CLASSIFIED ADS FOR MEMBERS

Reach 250+ collectors who are serious about Barbers! Any member may run a classified ad in the *Journal*. Rates are \$4 per ad (over 4 lines add 50¢ per line). Send with check to: Editor, BCCS; 6095 Indian River Rd, #204; Va. Beach, VA 23464.

If you have Barbers you want to buy or sell and don't need a lot of space to do it, the *Classified Section* is for you.

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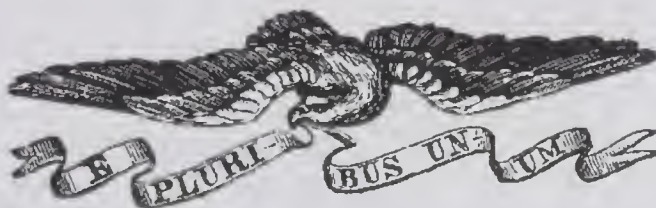
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LETTER TO THE MEMBERS

The purpose of our society is to unite everyone with an interest in Barber coins, and to share information to better educate us all.

Our journal is a quality reference tool that will be utilized by collectors 100 years from today! Your views can be part of this historic event, if you contribute. Don't underestimate your individual views as unimportant to our society. Because without your view, our society will be incomplete.

I have contributed a number of articles to our journal, and i hope they have been enjoyed by our members. I also have written for other publications, most notably Dave Bowers "*Rare Coin Review*". The overwhelming feelings of satisfaction I receive from seeing my words in print, is more than you can imagine.

So get out your pen and start now! Remember, editors are wizards who with a wave of their magic pen will make your article sound terrific!

If you mention this letter as a motivating factor in your article, other members will see your success and join in. We have a wonderful society, help by contributing your views.

Russell Easterbrooks
Charter Member #217



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Of the 22 BCCS Journals issued, 19 are still available at \$4.00 per issue. Lower pricing is charged for multiple issue orders. Typically \$14.00 for a set of 4 issues. \$28.00 for a set of 8 issues, and \$55.00 for a set of 16 issues.

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